## CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	$\square$	Force	<u> </u>	Discourt.	U.S.
Yazmin Sanchez		Team # 8	200007276	$\square$	Abuse		O.L.	☐ Injury
In the Date (		I and a CI at I and		  -	No. 1	1.0	M. COL	EO SOL
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		1	Precinct:		Mo. SOL	
Thursday, 10/19/2000 10:00 PM		West 139th Street & Br			30		/19/2002	4/19/2002
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:	:			eived at CCl	RB
Thu, 10/19/2000 10:15 PM		Precinct	Phone		Fri, 10/20/	2000	11:05 AM	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess					
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command					
1. POM Osvaldo Nunez	06330	918086	030 PCT					
2. POM John Hoffman	28293	920398	030 PCT					
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name					
1. SDS Thomas Barrett	00884	888419	WARRSEC					
2. DT3 Scot Rosenthal	05447	913343	WARRSEC					
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on			Inve	estiga	ator Recon	nmendation
A.POM John Hoffman		O John Hoffman stoppe vas an occupant.	ed the car in which	87(2)(l	0)			
B.POM Osvaldo Nunez		O Osvaldo Nunez stopp vas an occupant.	ed the car in which	§ 87(2)	)(b)			
C.POM John Hoffman	Discourtesy: PO John Hoffman spoke obscenely and/or rudely to \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b)							
D.POM Osvaldo Nunez	Discourtesy: PO Osvaldo Nunez spoke obscenely and/or rudely to \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b)							
E.POM John Hoffman	Abuse: PO John Hoffman frisked § 87(2)(b)							
F.POM John Hoffman	Abuse: PO John Hoffman searched car in which \$87(2)(b) was an occupant.							
G.POM Osvaldo Nunez	Force: PO Osvaldo Nunez used physical force against § 87(2)(b)							
H.POM Osvaldo Nunez	Abuse: PO Osvaldo Nunez frisked and searched §87(2)(b)							
I.POM Osvaldo Nunez		O Osvaldo Nunez searcivas an occupant.	hed car in which § 87	(2)(b)				
J.POM John Hoffman	Abuse: P	O John Hoffman did no o <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup>	t provide name and/	or sl	nield			
K.POM Osvaldo Nunez	Abuse: PO Osvaldo Nunez did not provide name and/or shield number to § 87(2)(b)							

## **Synopsis**

Complainant \$87(2)(b) and his friend \$87(2)(b) both live in Maryland where \$
is a \$87(2)(b) . On 10/19/00, at about ten at night, the men, who were riding in a
rental car with Virginia plates, stopped at a traffic light in Harlem. §87(2)(b), §87(2)(g)
Summary of Complaint
Complainant (complainant (complainant (complainant report re
Complainant \$37(2)(b) who provided a statement to the CCRB on 11/13/00 (enc. 5), and answered follow-up questions on 3/12/01 (enc. 5 & 18), explained that \$87(2)(b) had rented and was
driving the recent-model white Dodge Intrepid in which they rode. A car was rented because \$87(2)(b) did not have a vehicle and \$87(2)(b) did not want to take his car on the trip. The men left Maryland at
3:00 or 4:00 PM. They were trying to get to Delancey Street to shop for leather coats, "like we always
do," \$87(2)(5) explained. They were lost and were traveling on Broadway in order to find a way back to
Canal Street to get to the Holland Tunnel because it was too late to shop. Street; though he was the first car stopped at the light, he was not in the crosswalk.
saw the subject officers, who sat in a marked RMP also on Broadway, but heading in the opposite
direction, stopped at the light facing the two civilians. As the officers drove by slowly, \$87(2)(6) made
eye contact with them and told his friend as a joke, "Look how they're looking at us – here we go."
The police officers must have done a U-turn and followed the civilians' vehicle about 25 feet
before the civilians pulled over to ask for directions from a group of about 20 people that stood 15-20 feet
away. The police car pulled up behind them with its turret lights on. PO Hoffman approached
side of the vehicle and PO Nunez approached the driver, § 87(2)(b) The first thing the officers
said was, "Let me see your fucking hands." \$87(2)(b) told the officers to calm down and asked them
why they had stopped them. The officers told them to "shut the fuck up." §87(2)(b) told PO Hoffman
that he is a \$87(2)(b) and handed him his identification. PO Hoffman told him, "I don't give a fuck who you are or where you work, you're in New York now." PO Nunez got \$87(2)(b)

After some time, the officers returned to the civilians' vehicle and asked the civilians to exit their vehicle. §87(2)(b) asked, "For what?" He felt that he and his friend were racially profiled and did not want to continue the incident. Also, §87(2)(b) felt that he should have §87(2)(b) especially since his friend did not commit an infraction. PO Hoffman guided 887(2)(b) out as he exited the vehicle: § 87(2)(b) PO Hoffman then conducted a full body frisk on \$87(2)(b) He also went into \$87(2)(b) waistband and into his front and rear pockets. The officer pulled out a wad of money from \$87(2)(b) pocket, but recovered nothing else. PO Nunez frisked and searched \$87(2)(b) The officers asked the civilians to stand against the back of the car, which they did. The officers asked the men if they were sure they had no illegal items in the car. Then, without consent, the officers searched the vehicle, looking as well into the glove compartment and into the pockets of a coat laying in the car, which belonged to The officers found \$5,000 in cash folded in two packets lying underneath the passenger seat had been sitting. This money was \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) s spending money. The officers asked the men what they were doing in the neighborhood with that type of money. §87(2)(b) said he was sick of explaining that he and his friend were just going shopping. A Ford Explorer pulled up driven by a plainclothes officer subsequently identified as Sgt. Thomas Barrett; his partner, Det. Scott Rosenthal was also in the vehicle. PO Hoffman was still in the Intrepid holding the cash. After the sergeant reviewed \$87(2)(b) identification \$87(2)(b), he identified himself to the complainant and they debated whether the officers had racially profiled him and his friend, and whether the officers had probable cause to search the vehicle. Det. Rosenthal said nothing throughout the incident. When the complainant asked the officers who had stopped him for their names and badge numbers, the officers said that it was not important. §87(2)(b) explained that he did not obtain this information from the officers' badges during the interaction because the incident happened quickly and the officers stood at an angle from him for most of the incident, making it difficult for him to see their badges. Before the officers all left, without having issued any summons, they pointed out again that people in rental vehicles in drug-prone locations are usually there to buy or sell guns or drugs. At some point, one of the officers told § 87(2)(b) that he and his friend were stopped for stopping in a crosswalk. After the officers left the scene, \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) filed their complaint at the first police station they encountered.

## **Results of Investigation**

Complainant § 87(2)(b) interviewed on 12/21/00 (enc. 6), § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g) They had been lost for hours, he stated, but they were also looking for a leather outlet and a warehouse located in Harlem. that the incident happened about two hours earlier than 10:00 PM. He said that he made a U-turn on Broadway at the light of 139<sup>th</sup> Street. After he did this, the police car followed him with its lights and siren and he pulled over. §37(2)(b) said that the officers pulled him and his friend out of their vehicle – PO Nunez pulling him by shirt. He said that the officers did not ask him and his friend to exit the vehicle as \$87(2)(b) said, and according to \$87(2)(b) the officers asked them for their license and registration after they were out of the vehicle. According to \$87(2)(b) the officers found \$4,700 behind the middle armrest during the search of the vehicle. §87(2)(b) said that he did not consent to the search of the car, but he told the officers to go ahead and search the trunk of the car too, which they did. According to \$87(2)(b) the officers frisked and searched him and his friend after they searched the car. PO Nunez removed \$25 and his keys from \$87(2)(b) so pocket. PO Nunez told the two men to "shut the fuck up" as they were being frisked and were trying to explain to the officers what they were doing in the area. PO Nunez asked \$87(2)(b) if he knew not to stop in a crosswalk, and when he answered, no, PO Nunez said, "Well, now you do."

After the incident, \$37(2)(b) did not want to file a civilian complaint. He and \$37(2)(b) headed back down Manhattan to get to another place that sells leather pocketbooks and coats. On the way there, they saw a police precinct and \$37(2)(b) decided to file a complaint there. \$37(2)(b) was uncooperative with the investigator's attempts to ask him follow-up questions later in the investigation, and he did not return the verification statement along with a copy of the rental auto contract to the investigator (see enc. 18 & 20).

## Officer statements

PO John Hoffman indicated in his memo book (enc. 7) that he and his partner, PO Nunez conducted the car stop in question because the civilians' vehicle was stopped in a crosswalk and would not cross the RMP. PO Hoffman indicated that he patted down the complainant, who had his hands under the seat, for safety. Then he and his partner warned and admonished the men. PO Hoffman provided a statement to the CCRB on 2/16/01 (enc. 8). He stated that while he and his partner were at the intersection in question, they observed the civilians' vehicle in the intersection. The passenger, was hunched over and the two men were talking. PO Hoffman observed this from over his shoulder because the RMP had passed the civilians' vehicle, which did not move for two light changes. When the vehicle did move, it made a U-turn. The officers followed the car. When the vehicle stopped, the driver, structure tried to exit the car. PO Hoffman told him to get back into the vehicle through the PA system.

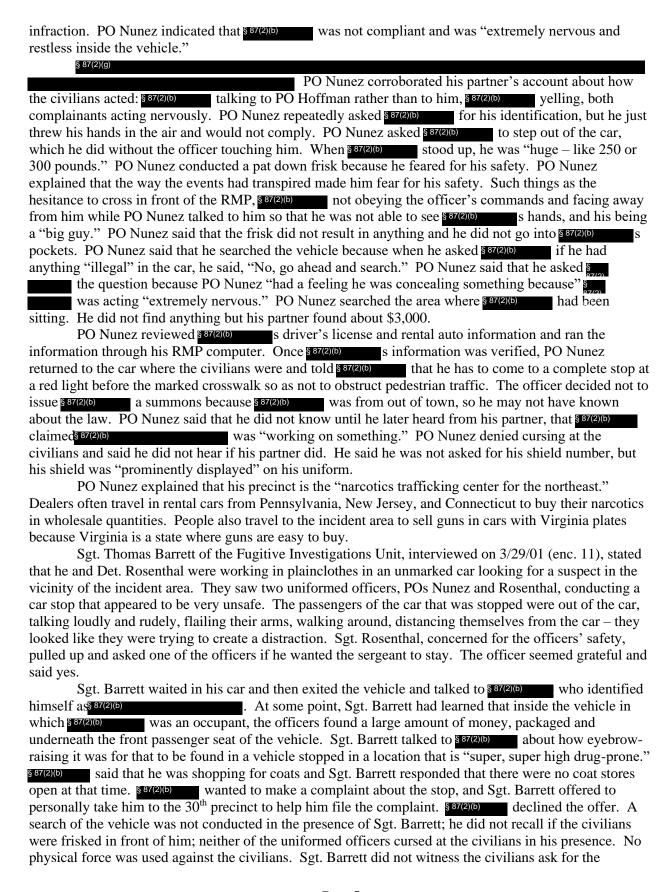
PO Hoffman approached \$\frac{\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}{\text{to place his hands where he could see them, }\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}{\text{to place his hands where he could see them, }\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}{\text{told him, "We're working on something }-\mathbb{\sigma}^{\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}{\text{.}}\$." PO Hoffman asked \$\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}\$\text{ who did place his hands on the dashboard, }\mathbb{\sigma}^{\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}{\text{.}}\$\text{.}\$\mathbb{\sigma}^{\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}{\text{.}}\$\text{did not answer, but }\mathbb{\sigma}^{\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}\$\text{ to talk to him, as he was standing on the driver's side of the car. }\mathbb{\sigma}^{\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}{\text{PO Hoffman then noticed a bulge in }\mathbb{\sigma}^{\mathbb{\sigma}^{37(2)(0)}}\$\text{ front pants pocket, so he opened the vehicle door and searched under the passenger seat.}

Below the seat, PO Hoffman found a large sum of money – about \$15,000 - \$20,000 – in three bundles held together with rubber bands, wrapped in a black shirt underneath the seat. PO Hoffman asked \$87(2)(b) if he had a firearm on his person. \$87(2)(b) either did not respond or he provided different answers when asked. PO Hoffman either pulled \$87(2)(b) out of the vehicle or he asked him to step out. PO Hoffman did a quick frisk of his waist and back for a weapon – not a whole body frisk. PO Hoffman said that he asked \$87(2)(b) what was in his pants pocket, and \$87(2)(b) said that it was money. PO Hoffman squeezed the bulge, but did not go into \$87(2)(b) pocket to remove it. PO Hoffman was not convinced that there was no gun.

Soon, a sergeant subsequently identified as Sgt. Barrett, whose name and telephone number PO Hoffman documented in his memo book (enc. 7), pulled up to the scene. The officers asked him to stay because they did not know what type of situation they had in their hands. PO Hoffman decided to search the vehicle again – specifically staying in the area where statement of the vehicle. §87(2)(b)

said that he got nervous because he did not know what was happening. The men told the officers that they were shopping for jackets earlier in the day and were planning to get back to Baltimore. PO Hoffman felt that their story did not check out, considering that they were in a drug-prone location, the stores are closed at that time, and it did not explain the rental auto. PO Hoffman did not know why his partner did not issue the driver a summons before the men left.

PO Osvaldo Nunez, interviewed on 2/7/01 (enc. 9), filed a stop and frisk report (enc. 13) related to the incident, which he brought to his interview, and he brought a print-out of the Finest check that he conducted with \$87(2)(5) street of the stop and frisk report, which the officer read into the record, indicated that at about 9:35 PM, the officers stopped \$87(2)(5) for a traffic



uniformed officers' names and shield numbers, but their information was visible on the officers' badges. Sgt. Barrett offered his name to \$87(2)(b) without request because he wanted \$87(2)(b) to have it. Det. Scott Rosenthal. § 87(2)(g) He mentioned several times the "unruly" and "abusive" behavior the complainants were exhibiting. He said that he stayed out of the interaction, and just stood by for support while the civilians talked to the uniformed officers and the sergeant. Without touching the vehicle, Det. Rosenthal saw the bundles of money "wrapped like a deck of cards" in plain view on the floor of the passenger side of the vehicle. Det. Rosenthal did not see the vehicle get searched, the civilians frisked or cursed at, and he did not hear the civilians ask for the officers' names and badge numbers. Det. Rosenthal said that his sergeant did freely offer his information to the civilians. Police documents PO Hoffman filed a Stop and Frisk Report (enc. 13) about the stop of the vehicle in which \$87(2)(b) was also an occupant. According to the report, the passenger - \$87(2)(b) — had his hands under the seat covering an object. The officer also indicated that he noticed a bugle in the front of [887(2)(b)] pants. PO Hoffman wrote that he conducted a frisk for his safety, but a search inside the complainant's clothes was not made. The Stop and Frisk Report (enc.13) filed by PO Nunez about the stop of §87(2)(b) for a "VTL violation." PO Nunez said that \$87(2)(6) — the driver — was not obeying the officer's commands. He was also "extremely nervous and restless." The driver was frisked, but a search inside his clothes was not conducted. According to the Finest Message Switching System printout (enc. 14), the officer's check of s license at first indicated no record. Then the results indicated that §87(2)(b) was not wanted and had a valid Maryland driver's license. Communications records were returned for an incorrect date (enc. 15). The case did not necessitate further inquiry into communications records because the case did not involve radio transmissions. The MISD request was returned as a "no hit" for s license (enc. 16), but the Finest printout sufficiently provided the information that the officers retrieved on their computer on the night of the incident. Fleet Services provided a list of Ford Explorers in the police department, which was requested to assist with the identification of the witness officers (enc. 17). The list was not necessary, though, because PO Hoffman had in his memo book information about the identities of the sergeant and detective. Searches for leather coat retailers near Harlem The investigator conducted a Yahoo search and Metrosearch (enc. 19) for the locations that said he and \$37(2)(b) were looking for on the night of the incident (see enc. 6). Directory Assistance was also employed as a search tool. Directory Assistance had no record of a Leather Emporium on 152<sup>nd</sup> Street, as \$87(2)(b) indicated. Yahoo and Metrosearch results showed most locations that sell leather goods are located in the Garment District (just below midtown), the Chinatown area and the Delancey Street area (in lower Manhattan). Yahoo did show a "Emporium Leather Corporation," but that was located in Secaucus, New Jersey, about 4.5 miles from mid-Manhattan. The nearest such location to where the complainants were on the night of the incident is a location called "Leather and Suede Doc," which is located at 255 W. 113<sup>th</sup> Street, about thirty blocks from the incident location. **Conclusions and Recommendations** To recap, on the night of the incident (sometime between 9:30 PM – 10:00 PM), \$87(2)(6) who rode in a vehicle with Virginia license plates, were stopped at a stoplight when

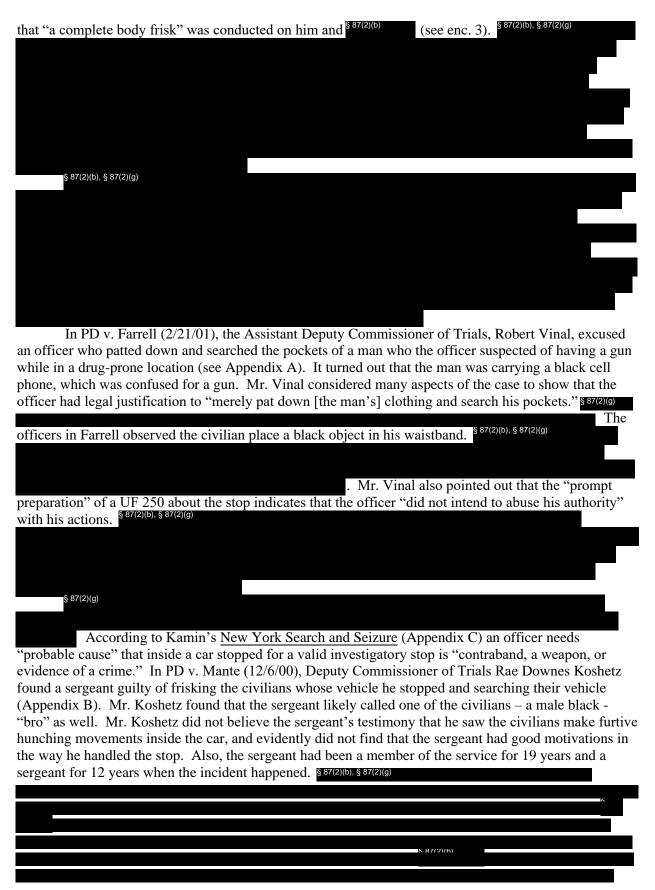
they became aware of POs Hoffman and Nunez riding in an RMP. [887(2)(6)] the driver of the vehicle, made a U-turn at the light. The officers pulled over the civilians, frisked them, and searched the vehicle in which they rode. PO Hoffman found bundles of cash in the amount somewhere between \$3,000 -

\$15,000 underneath the passenger seat, in which §87(2)(b) sat. §87(2)(b) is a §87(2)(b)

He feels that there was no reason for the stop except for racial profiling. The officers testified that and ser/(2)(6) acted suspiciously from the moment they saw them, and throughout the entire incident. Sgt. Barrett and Det. Rosenthal arrived at the scene of the vehicle stop, and the sergeant talked to ser/(2)(6) about the eyebrow-raising circumstances involving the large sum of money, the time of night, the location of occurrence, and the explanation that ser/(2)(6) provided that the men were shopping for coats.
Credibility
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
. He told the officers on the date of the incident, and the investigator on the date of his interview, that he and his friend shop at Delancey Street "all the time," yet he and \$87(2)(b) testified that they were lost (see enc. 5).
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(b)
8 97/9Vb) 8 97/9Va)
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
\$87(2)(b), \$87(2)(g) Sgt. Barrett stated that the complainant did not want to go to the 30 <sup>th</sup> precinct to file a complaint with the sergeant on
the night of the incident. [\$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ told the investigator that he did not wish to file a complaint at first that night, but then he and \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ did when they passed a precinct. \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$

§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(i)
PO Hoffman did find suspicious packets containing thousands of dollars in cash wrapped in an article of clothing beneath the seat where \$87(2)(b) sat. \$87(2)(b).\$87(2)(g)
They also each filled out Stop and Frisk reports (Ul
250s, enc. 13) about the stop of each man.  § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
g 01 (2)(b), g 01 (2)(g)
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)

Allegations addressed
§ 87(2)(g)
Also, both officers mentioned the traffic
violation in the Stop and Frisk reports they filed. §87(2)(9)
The officers stated that the men hesitated at the light, and allowed two light changes before
making a U-turn. §87(2)(b), §87(2)(g) Other
factors, though, raised the officers' suspicions about the complainants. PO Hoffman stated that while the
civilians waited at the light, he saw them talking and saw the passenger reach under the seat. The officers
also noticed that the car's plates were from Virginia, which, PO Nunez explained is where many gun
dealers come from because of liberal gun laws in the state.
Allegations A & B
alleged that PO Hoffman and PO Nunez stopped him and his friend without good
reason. § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
Allegations C & D
alleged that PO Hoffman and PO Nunez used the word "fuck'
in their orders towards them and that PO Hoffman said, "We don't give a fuck who you are."
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegations E & F
alleged that PO Hoffman frisked him (E) and searched his vehicle (F). §87(2)(b). §
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
C GUAVIA
§ 87(2)(b) wrote



§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)	
g 01(2)(u), g 01(2)(g)	In PD v. Wang, Judge Spooner establish
unconstitutional stops	and frisks may not be misconduct if the officer acted in good faith (see
endix D). § 87(2)(g)	
gations G, H, and I	
	alleged that PO Nunez pulled him out of the car (G), frisked and searched l
and searched his side	of the car (I). § 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)	alloged that DO Nunez frieled him and want into hi
	alleged that PO Nunez frisked him and went into his and keys. PO Nunez denied going into \$87(2)(b).
	alleged that PO Nunez frisked him and went into his and keys. PO Nunez denied going into \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(
	y and keys. PO Nunez denied going into \$87(2)(b) s pockets. \$87(2)(b). \$87
kets, pulling out mone	y and keys. PO Nunez denied going into \$87(2)(b) s pockets. \$87(2)(b). \$87  PO Nunez said that he was suspicious of \$87(2)(b) from the
kets, pulling out money	PO Nunez said that he was suspicious of \$87(2)(b) something from the led to exit the vehicle when he was stopped, he was not compliant with the
kets, pulling out money inning. § 87(2)(b) tri cer's directions, and he	PO Nunez said that he was suspicious of \$87(2)(b) from the led to exit the vehicle when he was stopped, he was not compliant with the had his back to the officer while in the car, leaving his hands unexposed to
inning. \$87(2)(b) tricer's directions, and he cer. Also, \$87(2)(b) officer when \$87(2)(b)	PO Nunez said that he was suspicious of \$87(2)(b) from the led to exit the vehicle when he was stopped, he was not compliant with the had his back to the officer while in the car, leaving his hands unexposed to size, which PO Nunez described as "huge – 250 to 300 pounds" intimid stepped out of the vehicle. (PO Nunez is 6'0" and 215 pounds. \$87(2)(b)
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About the search of the vehicle, Allegation (I), PO Nunez indicated that the situation led him to believe that the men were hiding something in the vehicle. He also said that [807(2)(b)] told him to go

ahead and search the car. §87(2)(6), §87(2)(9)	
Allegations J and K	
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)	
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)	
•	<b>D</b> .
Investigator:	Date:
Supervisor:	Date:
Reviewed by:	Date:

Date:

Reviewed by: